

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Examiner's January 24, 2003, Official Action and respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following comments.

Claims 2 and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-11 and 13-24 remain in the application for consideration.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the specification and drawings and rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicant has amended page 4 of the specification and fig. 1 of the drawings as suggested by the Examiner and amended claims 1 and 5 to eliminate the problems identified by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully submits that these objections and rejection have now been overcome.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that claims 2 and 12 would be allowable subject to overcoming his 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection. In response, in addition to overcoming the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the allowable features of claim 2 and claim 11 to include the allowable features of claim ¹²~~14~~. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 11 are now allowable along with dependent claims 3-11 and 13-24 and that this application is now in condition for allowance.

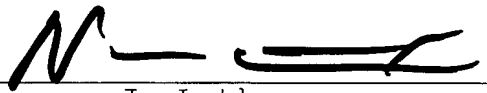
In re Appln. No. 09/988,816

Applicant submits that the invention is new and unobvious and not disclosed by the cited art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully solicits the Examiner's early review and issuance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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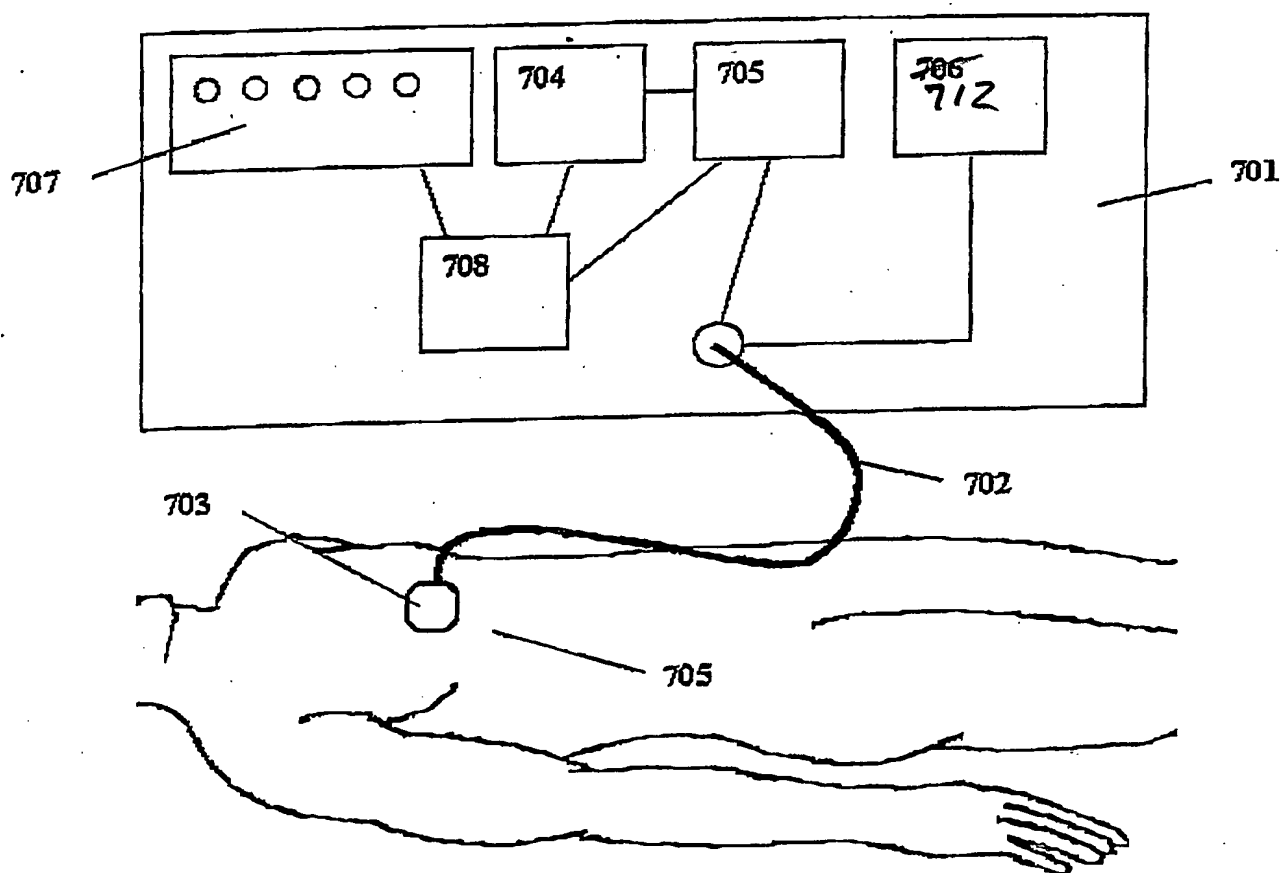


Figure 1